

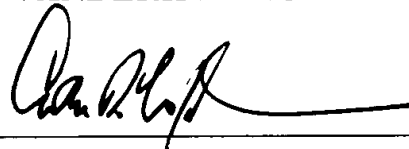
REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, insert as a separate paragraph:

-- This application is the continuation of international application PCT/IT00/00251
filed 16 June 2000, which designated the U.S.. --

IN THE ABSTRACT

Kindly include the Abstract below:

Abstract

The disclosure is of a combination of lactic acid bacteria comprising: (a) a first component consisting of at least one strain of H₂O₂-producing lactic acid bacteria; and (b) a second component consisting of at least one strain of arginine-utilizing lactic acid bacteria. The disclosure is also of the use of this combination for making a food supplement, a hygiene product or a pharmaceutical preparation for the prevention and/or treatment of infections and inflammatory conditions caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi, especially in the mouth, vagina, urethra, nose, eyes and ears.

IN THE CLAIMS

3. Combination according to ~~any one of~~ Claims 1-2, in which the ratio of the number of bacteria in component (a) to the number of bacteria in component (b) is from 1 : 00 to 100 : 1.

6. Combination according to ~~any one of the previous claims 1~~ in unit dosage units comprising from 1×10^2 to 5×10^{11} bacteria of component (a) and from 1×10^2 to 5×10^{11} bacteria of component (b).

8. Combination according to Claim 6 ~~or 7~~, in the form of tablets, sucking tablets, sweets, chewing gum, gelatin capsules, pessaries, suppositories and micro-enemas.

9. Combination according to ~~any one of Claims 1-5~~, in the form of pellets, dental creams and gels, denture powders, mouthwashes, dentifrices, sprays, suspensions and ointments.

10. Combination according to ~~any one of the previous claims 1~~, additionally comprising at least one other strain of lactic acid bacteria, chosen from a group made up of *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus cateniforme*, *Lactobacillus cellobiosus*, *Lactobacillus crispatus*, *Lactobacillus curvatus*, *Lactobacillus delbrueckii*, *Lactobacillus jensenii*, *Lactobacillus leichmannii*, *Lactobacillus minutus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus salivarius*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Lactobacillus gasseri*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium angulatum*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium catenulatum*, *Bifidobacterium dentium*, *Bifidobacterium eriksonii*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium plantarum* and *Streptococcus thermophilus*, provided that when component (a) is *Lactobacillus casei*

said other strain is not *Lactobacillus gasseri* or *Lactobacillus fermentum* and when component (a) is *Lactobacillus crispatus*, said other strain is not *Lactobacillus fermentum*.

11. Combination according to ~~any one of the previous claims 1~~, additionally comprising vitamins, quaternary ammonium bases, mineral salts, antioxidants and anti-plaque agents.

14. Use according to Claim 12 ~~or 13~~ for the treatment of the oral cavity as a deodorant, antiinflammatory, anti-caries and/or anti-plaque agent.

15. The composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein component (a) is *Lactobacillus crispatus* and component (b) is *Lactobacillus brevis*.

16. The composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein component (a) is *Lactobacillus salivarius* and component (b) is *Lactobacillus brevis*.

18. The composition according to claims 15–17, wherein the ratio of the number of bacteria in component (a) to the number of bacteria in component (b) is 1:1.